

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-18. Please add new claims 19-34.

1 - 18 (cancelled)

19. (new) A dental instrument for extraction of an object from a root canal, comprising:

a tubular shaft having an open end part of sufficient inner section to receive a portion of said object; and

a weakened zone of said end part that is plastically deformable under a stress to reduce said inner section to clamp onto said object portion sufficiently for said extraction,

wherein said deforming stress is a twisting motion of said shaft.

20. (new) The dental instrument of claim 19 wherein said weakened zone comprises at least one deformation opening.

21. (new) The dental instrument of claim 20 wherein said deformation opening is traversing.

22. (new) The dental instrument of claim 20 wherein said weakened zone deformation openings are formed in a wall portion of the open-end part and inclined 45° relative to said shaft.

23. (new) The dental instrument of claim 22 wherein said zone has three series of three deformation openings uniformly distributed about the periphery of said open-end part.

24. (new) The dental instrument of claim 20 wherein said zone has deformation openings parallel to the axis of the shaft.

25. (new) The dental instrument of claim 20 wherein said deformation openings are arranged in a staggered manner.
26. (new) The dental instrument of claim 19 wherein said weakened zone comprises a zone of reduced wall thickness relative to the rest of the shaft, designed to undergo plastic deformation.
27. (new) The dental instrument of claim 19 wherein said weakened zone comprises a material that is less hard than the material of which the rest of the shaft is made, designed to undergo plastic deformation.
28. (new) The dental instrument of claim 19 wherein said weakened zone comprises a thermally pretreated zone to render it less strong than the rest of the shaft, this zone designed to undergo plastic deformation.
29. (new) The dental instrument of claim 19 said shaft comprising a means to block said open-end part from rotating in the dentin, at least in the direction of the twist, during application of said deforming stress twisting motion.
30. (new) The dental instrument of claim 29 wherein said blocking means comprises teeth situated on a peripheral face of said open-end part.
31. (new) The dental instrument of claim 30 wherein said teeth can be used to dig into the dentin.
32. (new) The dental instrument of claim 19 further comprising a handle for twisting said shaft.
33. (new) The dental instrument of claim 19 wherein said deforming stress further comprises an axial pressure and said weakened zone comprises a zigzag-shaped wall that collapses to clamp said object for extraction.

34. (new) The dental instrument of claim 29 wherein said blocking means comprises a portion of the inner surface of the open-end part having a conical shape flared toward the opening of the open-end part so as to be able to become wedged around one end of the object.